#1

Gastritis.

The importance of the functions of the Stomach and the extensive dominion which it exercises over the whole animal economy render its diseases in the highest degree interesting. The office which it performs and its extended sympathies expose this viscus to a variety of disorders, and that which stands among the first in importance is Gastritis.

In the first place, it may not be improper or unconnected, to take a general view of the anatomical structure of the organ in which is seated the disease we are about to consider.

This apparently membranous sac is situated nearly transversely in the abdomen. It is of an oblong ~~curved~~ figure much

larger at one extremity, than the other. The greater extremity of the stomach is placed in the left Hypochondriac and the smaller in the Epigastric region under the left lobe of the liver. In the larger end there is an orifice, through which it re= =ceives food from the Oesophagus, and this is called Cardia. At the lower and smaller extremity it has an aperture which com= =municates with the Duodenum, and this is called Pylorus.

This latter foramen is surrounded by a Circular septum formed by a fold of the two innermost coats of the stomach.

The body of the stomach has two Curvatures, the greater, ~~which~~ extends downwards from one opening to the other; and the smaller is also between the two orifices, but above and behind, and owing to this curved form we find that both orifices of the Stomach

in the epigastric region. The Stomach is composed of four coats, the external is strong and firm, formed of a reflexion of the Peri=toneum by which it is connected to the Liver, Spleen, Colon, Diaphragm, and other parts. The next coat is the muscular; in contact with this we have the nervous; and the inner=most and last is the villous, or fungous as it is sometimes called from the granulated appearance which it sometimes presents. This inner coat we generally find covered with a mucous which is produced by its own secretory organs. The Stomach is sup=plied with nerves and bloodvessels like other organs of the body.

Inflammation of the Stomach has been divided by Cullen into Phlegmonic and Erythematic.

Erythematic inflammation of the stomach, is generally an attendant of

Malignant Fever. The following remarks will be confined to the consideration of the Phlegmonic species.

Various predisposing and exciting causes occasion this, as happens in other cases of inflammation. And among the chief of those which predispose to the disease, plethora may be esteemed as exerting much influence.

The first and most powerful exciting cause, is cold applied to the surface generally, or producing local irritation by its immediate contact with the stomach, as for instance, cold drinks, and especially ice water, drank when the body is overheated, producing effects more active and instantaneous.

Acrid, stimulating, or poisonous substances swallowed; blows, overdistention from food, indigestible food, and repelled

Exanthemata or Gout are also frequent exciting causes of this disease.
The disease thus produced is characterized by an acute ~~thirsting~~ pain in the region of the stomach, which is increased by the reception of any thing into it, by motion or external pressure. The pain is not in all cases confined to the Epigastric region, but in some instances extends to the false ribs, and back: There is great prostration of power, the pulse is small, hard and corded and not very quick in the commencement - great irritability of the stomach with copious vomiting - great thirst: as the disease advances the symptoms increase in violence - and there are extreme soreness, anxiety, and oppression at the præcordia. - Obstinate constipation, tension about the Epigastric & umbilical region - wild eye - delirium

lank, haggard countenance [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & accompanying [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] matter [illegible] water and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] commence [illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible] and in real relaxation and [illegible] [illegible] necessary [illegible] [illegible] itself.

As in many other diseases we have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] cases sometimes we [illegible] [illegible] condition [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] during the [illegible] of the disease. [illegible] [illegible] in which is attached to great tenderness [illegible] Podagra [illegible] [illegible] contraction [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] inflammation in the [illegible] have been mentioned [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

The various terminations of other

inflammation have likewise been ascribed to gastritis owing to the acute sensibility and [illegible] condition of the stomach with the rest of the system of a nervous character that any thing calculated to excite this irritability will not allow time for suppuration but will, unless speedily removed act more immediately on the system and occasion death.

The first and great indication in the treatment of this disease is to effect a resolution of the inflammation as soon as possible, and a tendency to this is known by the unmarkable mildness of the symptoms and their yielding to the other remedies. and should this favourable termination be produced we have some critical evacuation either by perspiration, diarrhoea or urine and the disease is thus stopt short.

[illegible] be the [illegible] of an uncommon severity. The symptoms exist in the onset, and they continue longer than usual and there is no evident disposition [illegible] the affection of the most important viscera. Besides, we must be prepared to [illegible]

Dissection generally shows some appearance of inflammation [illegible] in the [illegible] of the stomach. The degree of inflammation will commonly be proportioned to the cause of the disease. It sometimes appears in [illegible], [illegible] the [illegible] lining membrane [illegible] [illegible] inflammation [illegible] tion of coagulable lymph [illegible] surface of the stomach in [illegible] [illegible] state [illegible] thickened. In some cases [illegible] and ulcerations of the stomach.

The fever and the constitutional symptoms are so distinct and so marked that it will be impossible to confound with it any other complaint, but there is a much greater probability, much more difficulty and perplexity to use much discrimination in distinguishing it from Typhus and Enteric fever, or the fever it may be known by the pain in Colic, being in the lower part of the abdomen on the side of pain, and by the pulse being much more full and strong and the febrile symptoms not being so great.

The seat of the pain and its not being much increased on pressure are the principal characters between this disease and Enteritis.

In fact, intestinal obstruction is marked by the pain of colics in a much more accumulative action, and the most

immediate and [illegible] means of opening in relation to Bloodletting it is not estimate of the value of this remedy, will [illegible] be concerned, if we reject that the disease is an [illegible] inflammation of an organ [illegible] more or [illegible] delicate and delicate in its nature, and that unless we are so bound to [illegible] such [illegible] and [illegible] means of arresting its progress, the patient must in a short time fall a victim to its violence. To explain the fullest and most beneficial results from this remedy, we must [illegible] regard to the pulse, attack the complaint in its [illegible] intended taking away [illegible] or [illegible] ounces of blood, to be repeated in a more or less time if the indication still continues. In a moderate case in which bleeding is used, in [illegible]

effect is to diminish arterial action, - in that now under consideration it serves to increase and give natural action to the sense and thus, the complaint is lessened and from this circumstance we may judge of the advantage which we have derived from its employment. Small and repeated bleedings have been recommended, but to this I would remark, that we had better permit nature alone to relieve herself, than to add a portion of our art in her assistance.

General bleeding constitutes the most important measure in the treatment of this disease - it is allowed by a large number over the world. The beneficial effect of bleeding are more encouraging, discharged in no case than in this. But in the application

of this remedy, there is a caution to be observed in this as in other cases, which is [illegible] given by Dr. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] a [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a degree [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Inoculation [illegible] [illegible] advised [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] commencement of the complaint to examine the condition of the [illegible] which is as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] includes the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] inflammation at the same time it is necessary to remove con[illegible], which is almost a universal atten[illegible], and to effect this [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Enemata used frequently and in large

quantities composed of the mildest articles.
To allay the irritability of the stomach we must resort to the usual remedies, as lime-water & milk. The effervescent draught, in small and repeated doses. The warm water not tumultuous and anodyne injections. After the stomach is in a condition to retain the proper remedies for the purpose it is necessary to evacuate the alimentary canal. And here we should have recourse to Calomel as it appears peculiarly adapted to the case, on account of its being retained when almost every other medicine would be rejected.
Epsom salts appear also to be admirably suited to the same view, and in many cases in which Calomel has failed the most beneficial results may be obtained from the use of the Epsom salts.
Thirst which is usually very great

should be alleviated by the [illegible] drinks, given frequently and in small quantities, as [illegible] tea, [illegible] water &c these have been recommended and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible] of the patient

Diet when necessary [illegible] the [illegible] strength should be regulated in the same [illegible] it should be light [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] nature as [illegible] broth &c

In the last stage of this disease we find it necessary to [illegible] and invigorate the [illegible] and here the [illegible] and diffusible stimuli are indicated and among the most useful is the Spirits of Turpentine employed externally and internally, and [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] else Calculated to meet the same indication should be added

In the convalescence the utmost care is necessary to prevent a relapse, the diet should be simple and of the most diges=tible articles. Stimulants of every descrip=tion are to be scrupulously avoided, And we should particularly guard against patients against taking cold, by making them wear flannel if the weather re=quires it, and especially by protecting the feet.

Our resources in the treatment of Gastritis are much limited and unless it is subverted in its onset by the most energetic depletory measures, our utmost exertions will prove unsuccessful. If on the contrary we have, in the commence=ment of its rapid career, assailed it with our most efficient resources, our efforts in a majority of cases will be attended with that reward, of all others the most

pleasing to the Physician, the recovery of his Patient.

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on
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